

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed on October 29, 2008 which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Entry of the present amendment and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-11 remain in this application, where claim 1 is independent.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,972,400 (Kuwabara). Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kuwabara in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,142,486 (Masui). Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kuwabara in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,246,660 (Yanagawa). Further, claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kuwabara in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0037191 (Sasaki). Claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly

unpatentable over Kuwabara in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,337,838 (Hikima). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 3-11 are patentable over Kuwabara, Masui, Yanagawa, Sasaki and Hikima for at least the following reasons.

Kuwabara is directed to an optical pickup apparatus including a photodetector 6 which detects a laser beam reflected from information tracks of a disk and an amplifier circuit which amplifies the outputs of the photodetector 6. As shown in FIG 11, a preamplifier array 14 and a preamplifier circuit 60 are connected to the photodetector 6.

The preamplifier array 14 includes six preamplifiers individually connected to the outputs of the photodetector 6. The preamplifier circuit 60 has three outputs HF, FE, TE and includes seven amplifiers, where the output of four amplifiers 61, 62, 63, 64 are connected to two amplifiers 65, 66 to form the two outputs HF, FE of the preamplifier circuit 60. The third output TE of the preamplifier circuit 60 is provided from another amplifier 67.

It is respectfully submitted that Kuwabara does not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1

which, amongst other patentable elements, recites (illustrative emphasis provided) :

wherein an output number of the outputs of the amplifiers, which output number equals the number of the combined and the remaining uncombined electrical signals in the normal operational mode, is separately coupled to the coupling means so that a connection number of electrical connections of the coupling means from the outputs of the amplifiers is less than the output number of the outputs of the amplifiers connected to a test circuit of by the second electronic circuit (CRT₂).

Having less electrical connections from outputs of the amplifiers than the number outputs of the VERY SAME amplifiers is nowhere disclosed or suggested in Kuwabara. Masui, Yanagawa, Sasaki and Hikima are cited to allegedly show other features and does not remedy the deficiencies in Kuwabara.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claim 1 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3-11 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claim 1 as well as their individually patentable elements.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the

foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded. And in particular, no Official Notices are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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